

Client: Utah
Source: Wanderlust (Main)
Date: 01 March 2011
Page: 30
Reach: 37500
Size: 469cm2
Value: 2645.16

UTAH
LIFE ELEVATED



Utah Footnotes

Plan your trip to the USA's badlands - how to mountain-bike over rocks, sleep in a schoolhouse and chow down on a bowl of cheese beer soup

THE TRIP

Tag-A-Long Expeditions (+1 435 259 8946, www.tagalong.com), based in Moab, runs 4WD tours, **guided hikes and wilderness camping** in Canyonlands, and Colorado rafting trips. Chile Pepper Bike Shop (+1 435 259 4688, www.chilebikes.com) in Moab offers biking tours of Slickrock and other trails. For canyoneering around Escalante, see Excursions of Escalante (+1 435 826 4714, www.excursionsofescalante.com).



Getting there

United Airlines (0845 844 4777, www.unitedairlines.co.uk) flies **Heathrow-Salt Lake City** via Chicago and other US cities from around £518, inc taxes; flight time is from 11 hours. It's possible to fly to Las Vegas (BA and Virgin offer daily flights) and drive into **Utah** from the state's south-west corner.

Amtrak trains and Greyhound buses both run to Salt Lake City.



Getting around

The best way to get around Utah is by car, which can be rented in larger cities; Alamo, Hertz, Avis and Budget are easily accessed just outside Salt Lake City airport. **4WD vehicles are recommended for back-road or winter driving.**

Regional airlines connect Salt Lake City to Vernal, St George, Cedar City and Moab.



Cost of travel

Money goes a long way here: car hire costs around \$150 (£93) per week, petrol is around 50 cents (31p) a litre, and there's a full

range of food and lodging options.

Exchange foreign currency before leaving Salt Lake City. A 6.25% sales tax is added to most transactions. It's customary to tip 15-20% on food and drink, 10-15% for taxis and at least \$1 per bag for bellhops.



Accommodation

Red Cliffs Lodge (outside Moab, www.redcliffslodge.com), which **has its own winery**; Torrey Schoolhouse Bed & Breakfast (near Capitol Reef NP, www.torreyschoolhouse.com) and The Grand Lodge at Brian Head (near Cedar Breaks, www.grandlodgebrianhead.com) are particularly recommended accommodation options. For more, see www.uhla.org.



Food & drink

All foods can be found but most common are restaurants serving classic American fare (steaks, burgers), almost always in **large portions**. At lively Moab Brewery (Moab, www.themoabbrewery.com) try the cheese beer soup. Café Diablo (Torrey, www.cafediablo.net) does upmarket Mexican food and excellent margaritas.



Cultural considerations

This conservative state is still **predominantly Mormon**, but the range of sport activities here has attracted more liberal types. Drinking is legal, and there are nightclubs in the cities, plus many festivals, from mountain-biking to the Sundance Film Festival. Polygamy is illegal.

Client: Utah
Source: Wanderlust (Main)
Date: 01 March 2011
Page: 30
Reach: 37500
Size: 469cm2
Value: 2645.16

UTAH
LIFE ELEVATED



VITAL STATISTICS

State capital: Salt Lake City

Population: 2.7 million

Language: English

Time: GMT-7 (GMT-6 Mar-Nov)

International dialling code: +1 435

Visas: Not required by UK nationals, under the Visa Waiver Programme (VWP). Note, your passport must be machine-readable. However, all travellers must apply for a US government ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization) prior to departure, which costs \$14 and is valid for two years; apply at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta>.

Money: American dollar (\$), currently around \$1.55 to the UK£

When to go

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Temperatures vary greatly across Utah, not just according to season but also elevation (Bryce NP, for example, is twice the altitude of Arches NP, so much cooler).

■ Summer temperatures in the desert can hit 38°C – it's a good time to explore some of the higher elevations.

■ Autumn and spring offer more comfortable temperatures across the state; fall colours make autumn spectacular.

■ There's an average of 13m of snow on the mountains in winter; ski season runs Dec-Apr.



Health & safety

Though Utah's climate is temperate, you should be prepared for extremes. Sunscreen, a hat and plenty of water are advised, as is layered clothing. Nights in the desert can get cold. If planning to explore the great outdoors without a guide, make sure you tell someone (ranger, hotel reception etc) where you're going and when you plan to return. Hospitals and clinics are found in most cities. In case of emergency, dial 911.



Further reading & information

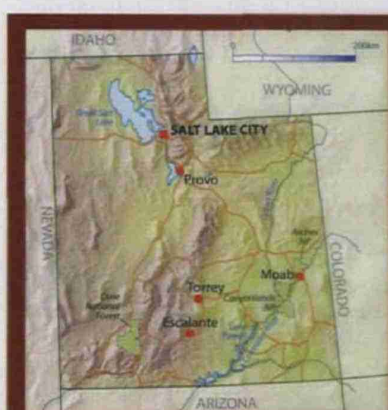
Utah is well covered in travel guides including *The Rough Guide to the USA* (2009) and

Lonely Planet Southwest USA (2008).

Desert Solitaire (Touchstone, 1990; first published 1968) Edward Abbey's account of his time as a ranger in Arches NP.

Beyond The Hundredth Meridian (Penguin, 1992; first published 1954) Wallace Stegner recounts the highs and lows of expeditions by John Wesley Powell, the renowned geologist and explorer of the Southwest.

www.goutah.co.uk Utah's new tourism site



Utah in...

One week: From Salt Lake City, check out Arches and Canyonlands NPs, bike the Slickrock trail, then drive down to Escalante and onto Bryce NP, Zion NP and Cedar Breaks National Monument – brief but beautiful.

Two weeks: Spend longer in the capital, and still have enough time to bike Slickrock and other trails, explore Arches, Bryce, Zion (including a hike up Angel's Landing) and Cedar Breaks. Get out into the wilderness of Canyonlands (including the Colorado River) and spend a day or two canyoneering around Escalante. Consider camping overnight at Monument Valley and spending a day at lesser-visited Capital Reef NP.

From the archives

USA by rail – issue 115, Nov 10

Grand Canyon – issue 75, Nov 05

Southwest USA planner – issue 64, Jun/Jul 04